

Decision Near On Bolstering U. S. Forces

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Kennedy Meets National Security Advisers Today

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President Kennedy may reach a decision today to strengthen American defenses for any world showdown over Berlin through a callup of reserves and other sweeping measures.

Pentagon recommendations for an immediate buildup of U. S. conventional war forces reportedly were outlined to the President late yesterday when the Joint Chiefs of Staff were summoned to the White House on short notice.

The National Security Council will meet at 4 p. m. today, with Mr. Kennedy presiding to discuss among other things how big a supplemental defense budget will be submitted to Congress before the week-end.

That there will be a substantial increase in American military power now is taken for granted on Capitol Hill and at the Pentagon. The major question is how much and what it will include.

Ten days ago when the Pentagon review of U. S. strength was started, Deputy Defense

Secretary Roswell L. Gilpatric said the Nation's strategic forces were considered adequate for the present and that only short-term measures to beef up conventional war war forces, such as calling Reserves, are being considered now. That is said to be still the prevailing Pentagon view.

But yesterday, Gen. Curtis E. LeMay, Air Force Chief of Staff, strongly urged the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee to add \$753 million to the pending arms budget to build 52 more B-52 strategic bombers and speed the development of the supersonic B-70 to have it operationally ready by 1967.

After his presentation, a ranking Republican, Sen. Leverett Saltonstall (Mass.), said "it is perfectly obvious" that the Committee was going to vote more money than the Administration had asked for both the B-52 and B-70.

And Pentagon officials said that "it is entirely conceivable" that the President may decide to recommend additional funds for bombers. Part of the impetus behind the planned defense buildup is to impress Russia with the United States' determination to stand fast on Berlin, and many believe that a bomber expansion plan, even though long-range, would more dra-

matically demonstrate this than mobilizing National Guard divisions.

How big a reserve callup may be asked by the Administration still is unsettled, but one Pentagon proposal reportedly was to provide funds to permit up to one million men to be mobilized.

That is the limit that could be ordered into service by the President if he declared a national emergency, and under this plan most of them might never be called unless the Berlin situation became acute.

If this plan is adopted, the total supplemental request could easily run to 3 to 4 billion dollars, including the additional seafight, airlift and other supporting forces required to deploy additional forces to world trouble spots.

Sen. A. Willis Robertson (D.-Va.), chairman of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, told newsmen the President had informed him he would make a decision on a budget increase after today's NSC meeting and hoped to send it to Congress Thursday for consideration Friday.

At yesterday's hearing before Robertson's Subcommittee, LeMay argued that B-52 production lines be kept turn-

ing out bombers until the B-70 is ready. He asked \$325 million to build another wing of B-52s and \$228 million more to develop the B-70 as a full bomber system at full speed.

The Kennedy budget provides no more money for B-52s, and only \$220 million for limited development of the B-70. LeMay said he was not asking any more B-58s. But bombers will be needed "from now on," he declared, even after missiles are perfected, to give "flexibility" to strategic power.

Total reliance on missiles, LeMay said, would put the Nation in a position where "your finger is either on the button and you're at war or it's off and you're at peace." With manned bombers, he said, you can maneuver with them... threaten with them and perhaps prevent war.

During LeMay's testimony, Air Force aides gave an unclassified report, with pictures, on the new Russian warplanes shown at a recent Moscow air show. Meanwhile, the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee received a secret Dulles and Pentagon officials' report on the Soviet planes from CIA Director Allen W.

After the executive session, Chairman John C. Stennis (D.-Miss.) commented, "The situation is grim, the bomb is grave." Some members of Robertson's Committee objected to keeping the facts about the Soviet planes secret. LeMay defended the action, saying that publication of the intelligence data would let the Russians know how good or how bad U. S. intelligence is.

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